



Jews and Libya

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History of Libya			
1500 Turkish Rule		1911 Italian Rule	1943 Bitish Rule
		1951 Independent	
Year	Jews in Libya	Year	Jews in Libya
1950	25,000	1953	4,000
1951	Libya became independent	1960	3,750
1951	15,000	1970	100
1952	12,000	1980	20
Settlement of Libya by Jewish refugees			
1911-12 - Italy seizes Libya from the Ottomans. Omar al-Mukhtar begins 20-year insurgency against Italian rule.			
1942 - Allies oust Italians from Libya, which is then divided between the French and the British.			
1951 - Libya becomes independent under King Idris al-Sanusi.			
The Complete Diaries of Theodor Herzl - page 1384 December 31, 1902 And yet: now that things are crackling east and west of the Mediterranean, now that the Macedonian question will probably be opened up in the Spring, the partition of Morocco may be imminent, and the Italian annexation of Tripoli is definitely in the offing, it is of the greatest importance that I speak with Lansdowne. With Rothschild as well.			
The Complete Diaries of Theodor Herzl - page 1600 - January 23, 1904 And finally I broached my Tripoli scheme also to channel the surplus Jewish immigration into Tripolitania, under the liberal laws and institutions of Italy.			
The Secretary of State to the Ambassador in the United Kingdom, May 22, 1943. The settlement of Libya by Jewish refugees would undoubtedly meet hostile opposition from local Arabs and from the Arab and Moslem world in general. The Libyan Arabs would reject any settlement which would threaten their grazing land and facilitate the infiltration of European Jews into the cities. For political reasons also the settlement and the Intern rational Organization responsible for it, would be met with hostility, particularly by the Senussi. The settlement of Jews in Libya would undoubtedly lead to protests throughout the Arab and Moslem world. Part of the Arab hostility to Jewish immigration into Palestine has been occasioned by fear that Jews desired to acquire domination of other Arab countries. The establishment of Jews in Libya with the aid of the United Nations would presumably be regarded by Arabs as an indication that those ambitions had received the support of the responsible United Nations, which already are believed by most Arabs to desire the creation of the feared Jewish State in Palestine. history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1943/d143			
Memorandum by the Assistant Chief of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs October 15, 1943. This would open up Palestine to about 500,000 Jews, which is the upper figure cited by such careful students of the problem as Dr. Nelson Glueck, of European Jews who will have to be taken care of outside Europe. If that number cannot be absorbed quickly, temporary provision for them could be made in Libya, for example. history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1943v04/0854			
March 25, 1944 Finding of havens where refugees may remain for the duration of the war is one of the most pressing and immediate problems before the War Refugee Board. Tripolitania and Cyrenaica in the opinion of the Department and the Board might be suitable for this purpose. Tripolitania and Cyrenaica have been under consideration as havens ever since the Bermuda Conference at which it was specifically recommended that the British consider the admission of refugees to Cyrenaica. The establishing of refugee havens in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania is extremely important. history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v01/d577			
The Under Secretary of State to the Secretary of State May 22, 1944 The British Government has undertaken to move to Palestine any Jewish refugees coming from Europe via Turkey and is prepared to cooperate actively in any efforts to rescue refugees which will not redound to the benefit of the Axis. Should the number of refugees unexpectedly exceed this provision, they are confident of their ability to provide places of refuge in the Near East, although not necessarily in Palestine itself. history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v03/d1			
Lieutenant Colonel Harold B. Hoskins to the Deputy Director of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs (Alling) March 5, 1945. I asked if the problem of Palestine had been discussed at Yalta, and he [President Roosevelt] said "no". The President said Mr. Churchill is as strongly pro-Zionist as ever and, among other ideas, Mr. Churchill wanted to put the Jews into Libya. The President said he had mentioned this to Ibn Saud, who objected violently, saying this would be unfair to the Moslems in North Africa. history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v08/d672			